

May 22, 2000

Dear Carrier:

This Request for Offers (RFO) transmits the Special Filing Instructions (SFI) for the submission of rate offers for numerous National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH) Work Centers. On behalf of NIB/NISH, the General Services Administration (GSA) is requesting non-alternating Standing Route Order (SRO) rate offers. Rate offers filed in response to this RFO will be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GSA Standard Tender of Service (STOS) and this RFO and its SFI. Please note that in some instances this RFO and its SFI will deviate from and will supersede those published in the STOS, General Freight Tender of Service No. 1-F (GSA TOS No. 1-F), supplements and reissues thereto. Unless otherwise noted, rate offers accepted in response to this RFO and its SFI will be for the filing period of August 1, 2000, through October 31, 2001.

All rate offers submitted in response to this RFO and its SFI must be submitted to GSA in accordance with Section 8 - **NO PAPER RATE OFFERS** will be accepted. In addition, only those common/contract carriers, rail carriers, freight forwarders, and brokers and shippers agents/Intermodal Marketing Companies (including each of their underlying carriers which they represent) who have met the established approval requirements for participation in GSA's Freight Management Program may submit rate offers in accordance with this RFO and its SFI. Only those Rate Filing Service Providers (firms which offer to those approved to participate in GSA's Freight Management Program the service of submitting to GSA rate offers in accordance with this RFO and its SFI) who have a valid Trading Partner Agreement on file with GSA's Freight Program Management Office (FPMO) and have met all other approval requirements established by GSA can submit rate offers in accordance with Section 14 of this RFO and its SFI on behalf of approved firms. Only those Tariff Publishing Agents who have a valid Trading Partner Agreement on file with the FPMO and have met all other approval requirements established by GSA may act as a Tariff Publishing Agent on behalf of approved firms.

Please note the following significant items:

1. Please be aware that paper rate offers previously accepted for the traffic identified in this RFO and its SFI automatically expire on July 31, 2000; consequently, it is imperative that all firms submit new rate offers electronically in accordance with this RFO and its SFI if a firm wants rates effective August 1, 2000 – **NO** paper rate offers will be accepted;
2. All submitted rate offers for the identified NIB/NISH facilities will be non-alternating;
3. Separate rate offers must be submitted for each NIB/NISH Work Center for which a firm wants to submit a rate offer (please refer to Section 6);

4. When submitting rate offers, only the B2 or B3 rate record may be utilized; and

5. IMPORTANT: If you are a current subscriber to the ITMS CD-ROM and intend to use its capabilities for the creation and submission of your rate offer for the identified traffic, you will need to contact the FPMO to request an updated version of ITMS as your current ITMS CD does not incorporate the changes/additions contained in this RFO and its SFI. To obtain an updated version of ITMS, please contact Robyn Bennett or Cindy Schardt by facsimile at (816) 823-3656 or e-mail at robyn.bennett@gsa.gov or cindy.schardt@gsa.gov. If you do not intend to utilize the capabilities of ITMS to create and submit your rate offers, you will not need to obtain a new version of ITMS as nothing else has been changed from your current version of ITMS.

If you have any questions with regard to this RFO, its SFI, or the STOS, please contact Maria Gutierrez at (415) 522-2846 or by e-mail at maria.gutierrez@gsa.gov. Questions dealing with the submission of electronic rate offers should be directed to either Robyn Bennett, Cindy Schardt, or Ray Calahan at (816) 823-3646 or by e-mail at robyn.bennett@gsa.gov, cindy.schardt@gsa.gov, or ray.calahan@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

Ed Hodges, Director
Property & Traffic Management Division (6FBD)

Enclosure